

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2 Polygonal data input in a first step is subjected to
3 evaluation in which all edges of the polygon data are ranked in
4 importance on the basis of a volume change caused by removal of
5 that edge. The edges are sorted on the basis of an evaluation
6 value in a third step. In a fourth step, the edge of a small
7 evaluation value is determined to be an edge of a small
8 influence on the general shape and is removed. In a fifth step,
9 a new vertex is determined from the loss of vertex by the edge
10 removal. In a sixth step, a movement of texture coordinates and
11 a removal of the texture after the edge removal are executed on
12 the basis of the area change of the texture due to the edge
13 removal by a predetermined evaluating function. In a seventh
14 step, by repeating the processes in the second to sixth steps, a
15 polygon model approximated to a desired layer can be obtained.